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The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008

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The Daily Gamecock

dailygamecock.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008

VOL. 101, NO. 72 ● SINCE 1908

Dan Rather visits USC

Veteran news anchor follows campaign trail to S.C., reports from campus

Brad Maxwell
NEWS EDITOR

USC will host news anchor Dan Rather in a live broadcast of the Michigan primary results at 8 p.m. in Drayton Hall.

An edition of “Dan Rather Reports on Politics” will not only include the night’s primary coverage but also take a special look at the upcoming South Carolina primaries and their importance on the political stage.

After visiting both Iowa and New Hampshire for their respective elections, Rather said he came to South Carolina because of its rich political history.

“South Carolina is not like any place else,” Rather said. “I don’t expect the same dynamics to apply that applied to Iowa and New Hampshire.”

South Carolina has the first southern primary and has held major influence in deciding the GOP candidate since 1980.

Rather said among Republican candidates an outcome is still hard to predict, but things are looking up for Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) He also said Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) could have some strong support among democrats.

“People think it’s John McCain’s to lose and Barack Obama’s to lose....” Rather said. “It’s McCain’s to lose but he can lose it and probably Obama’s to lose, but he certainly can lose it.”

He also said former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee could be a surprise win in South Carolina much like he did in Iowa.

“It’s not out of the realm of possibility,” Rather said.

Rather said the vote of young black women could determine a win for either Obama or Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.).

Rather said the three



Special to The Daily Gamecock

Rather shared his political insight with The Daily Gamecock in an exclusive interview.

most pressing issues among South Carolinians seem to be health care, education and the economy. Among most Americans e said the

economy is coming to the forefront, but the war in Iraq will still play a critical role.

“The economy is

beginning to be the number one issue. The war is a part of the natural sound and background of this election,”

RATHER ● 4

Nesbitt found in Indiana still alive

Man fakes death to evade charges, found with counterfeit bills

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. —A South Carolina man who spent more than six weeks on the run after faking his death was formally charged Monday with counterfeiting thousands of dollars, and prosecutors plan to fight any attempt to lower his bond.

A judge entered a not guilty plea for Julius “Butch” Nesbitt during his initial hearing on two felony counts of counterfeiting stemming from nearly \$60,000 in fake money found when he was arrested last week at a friend’s home in Terre Haute.

Nesbitt, 58, has been held in the Vigo County Jail under a \$50,000 bond on the counterfeiting charges while also being held under a South Carolina warrant for drug charges filed against him before he disappeared Nov. 24.

A hearing was scheduled for Tuesday on a request for Nesbitt’s bond to be reduced. Vigo County Deputy Prosecutor John Springer said he would object to that request.

“I’ll argue that he has allegedly faked his death and I would say he would be a flight risk,” Springer said.

Nesbitt admitted in an interview last week that he orchestrated his “death” to flee from the criminal charges against him in South Carolina. He said he tried to disappear after casting his boat adrift in an inlet about 30 miles south of Myrtle Beach. His disappearance prompted a search over several days by the Coast Guard and others.

Calls to the office of Nesbitt’s defense attorney in the counterfeiting case, Deborah Shepler, rang unanswered Monday.

Springer said he did not know of any request yet for Nesbitt’s transfer to South Carolina. Nesbitt’s girlfriend, Cynthia Hernandez Powell, was arrested with him last week and has been jailed on a South Carolina warrant charging her with failing to report a felony crime.

A message was left for Greg Hembree, the prosecutor in Horry County, S.C., asking if he planned to seek the extradition of Nesbitt and Powell.

Secret Service investigators have been looking into the counterfeit money, and Springer said federal authorities might move to take over the case. Mary Bippus, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney’s office in Indianapolis, said the office had not filed any charges against Nesbitt.

Private donations more than doubled

Gifts to University in first five months of fiscal year increase drastically from last year

Katie Jones
STAFF WRITER

Private giving to the university increased 123 percent in the first five months of the fiscal year, which began July 1. The number of donors and gifts given doubled from this point last year resulting in \$35.8 million from the beginning of the fiscal year to November 30.

Twenty-five percent of donations will go to both merit-based and need-based scholarships. Another 25 percent will go to capital projects, such as buildings. \$4 million of the donations were unrestricted. The donations benefit all campuses in the USC network.

“Approximately 98 percent of the gifts that we receive are directed by the donor for specific areas of interest,” said Brad Choate, vice president for university advancement. “It will benefit scholarships, faculty positions, research and the arts. It will benefit a little bit of everything.”

Michelle Dodenhoff, associate vice president for university development, attributes the surge in donations to fundraising efforts and the “exciting” things happening at USC.

“We, as a university, get out there sharing everything that’s going on here,” Dodenhoff said.

“People, our alumni, our friends and other donors are truly excited about what’s happening here and where the university is heading. People want to be a part of something that is successful and exciting and the university is just that.”

While Dodenhoff does not want to assume there will be such a drastic increase in donation for the remainder of the fiscal year, she is hopeful.

“You see a lot of people buying into what is happening here,” she said. “We’re anticipating having another banner year. We’ve got a couple of big gifts that we’re working on that will come in between January and June... Our hope is that we have a successful year when all is said and done.”

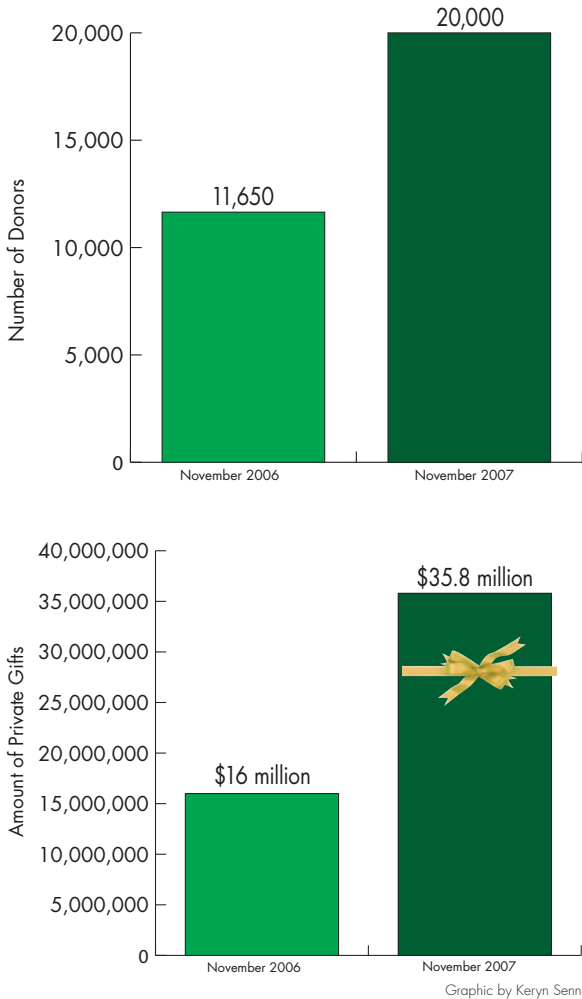
Choate has similar feelings about the remaining months in the fiscal year.

“We’re hoping to keep that pace, but it’s a pretty amazing pace,” he said. “It’s great, great news and we’re thrilled. But at the same time, keeping that pace is pretty tough. We hope to continue that in the fiscal year and make it the greatest fundraising year in the history of the university.”

Brad Boultinghouse, a first-year business and fashion-merchandising student, agrees that the increase in donations is a good thing, but is concerned the money will go to “the ridiculous landscaping budget.”

“I think it’s a good thing, but I do worry where the money will go,” Boultinghouse said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu



MLK Day brings up racial issue between presidential hopefuls

Comment by Clinton raises race question for voters

Beth Fouhy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Barack Obama accuses Hillary Rodham Clinton of making an “unfortunate” remark about Martin Luther King Jr. She retorts that King’s a hero to her — and no one should be thinking

Obama is a new MLK.

Racial politics, quietly simmering for months, have burst into the open in the Democratic nomination fight between the woman who would be the first female president and the man who would be the first black president. Will it make a difference to voters, black or white?

The first big test will be in the South Carolina primary a week from Saturday. It will be the first Democratic primary this year in a state with a substantial black

population — as Michelle Obama declared over the weekend, “Ain’t no black people in Iowa” — and the first in the South.

Clinton spent part of Monday praising King, the civil rights leader who was killed in 1968. Speaking at a ceremony honoring him in New York, she said, “I remember hearing him speak when I went with my church to downtown Chicago to see and hear for myself someone who had burst through the stereotypes and the caricatures, who could not

be held back by being beaten or gassed or jailed.”

But a lot of people were still talking about her comment that came out over the weekend, to the effect that King’s dream of racial equality was realized only when President Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act.

The remark didn’t sit well with Audrey Quantano, a Harlem resident who said she hasn’t made up her

ELECTION ● 4

Crime Report

THURSDAY, JAN. 3

Harassment, 3:25 p.m.

1501 Senate St.

Sam Bolt came to campus uninvited to see the victim and attended parties the victim attended. He also head-butted her.

Reporting officer: B. Timbers

SATURDAY, JAN. 5

Harassment, violation of restraining order, 12:30 a.m.

Strom Thurmond Wellness Center, 1000 Blossom St.

Laurie Giarrantano called the victim after being restricted to contact her by a restraining order.

Reporting officer: L. Branham

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9

Harassment, 12:30 a.m.

Strom Thurmond Wellness Center, 1000 Blossom St.

Laurie Giarrantano called and texted the victim repeatedly from Nov. 30 to Jan. 9.

Reporting officer: L. Branham

FRIDAY, JAN. 11

Driving under the influence, 2:45 a.m.

Pickens and Greene St.

David Sherer was driving erratically and ignored a traffic signal. He was unsteady on his feet, admitted he had been drinking and failed field sobriety tests.

Reporting officer: A. Mitchell

Grand larceny of motor vehicle, 9:30 p.m.

Computer Center Parking Garage, 501 Sumter St.

A gold 1996 Lexus was stolen.

Reporting officer: W. Jones

SATURDAY, JAN. 12

Disorderly conduct, trespassing after notice, 1:45 p.m.

737 Saluda Ave.

Bernard Jefferson was walking through a parking lot, looking through the windows of cars. He told officers his name was Bernard Jefferson Davis. He smelled of alcohol, became irate, loud and boisterous and used profanity.

Reporting officer: S. Wilcox

PIC OF THE DAY

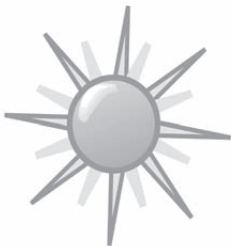


Lizzy Sheppard / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A student picks out her textbooks for this semester's classes at the Russell House bookstore.

[WEATHER]

TODAY



52 25

Tomorrow



50 33

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Jan. 15-18

7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Poster Sale in Russell House lobby

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

MLK Day of Service Registration in Russell House lobby

Jan. 15

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Scuba Club Meeting RH Rm 205

Jan. 16

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

SAGE Presidential Primary Phone Bank in RH lobby

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

University Bible Study RH Rm 303

Jan. 17

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Student Body Elections Informational Meeting RH Senate Chambers

6 p.m.

Impact '08: Building a Better Safer World in Russell House

6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Tea and Grits: A Southern Speaker Series in Gressette Room

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Zephyrus Medieval Quartet Concert in Rutledge Chapel



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Sicknesses no longer something to be down about, some make statements

Patients take medical necessities, make them fashionable

Megan K. Scott
The Associated Press

An arm sling covered with colorful flames. A T-shirt with "Cancer picked the wrong Diva!" splashed across the chest. A medical ID bracelet adorned with Swarovski crystals.

Call this fashionable sickness — turning a disease into a fashion and political statement.

Years ago people were reluctant to share their illnesses, and often went to great lengths to hide them. But today's patients are openly self-deprecating, with T-shirts proclaiming, "I have ADD" and bald heads painted with a favorite sports team logo. They are making their disabilities cool with hot pink walkers, canes with plastic daisies and cast covers imprinted with graffiti.

"Like the old adage says 'life happens,'" says Karen Larde, the Atlanta bureau chief for fashioninsider.com. "Well so do illnesses. If we must at some point be ill, why not look good doing it?"

NEW HONESTY

Experts aren't sure what to call this new open attitude about illness. But they credit television, the Internet, celebrities and the need to raise money and awareness for diseases.

"Morning television and Oprah, settings where

empathy existed, that really said, 'it's OK for me to have an illness,'" says Rich Hanley, director of graduate programs at Quinnipiac University's school of communications. "Pop culture has embraced personal narratives."

And whether it's Lance Armstrong fighting cancer or Brooke Shields and postpartum depression, celebrities show people that it's OK to tell the world what they are going through, says Rhoda Weiss, a national health care consultant in Santa Monica, Calif.

"The hipness is also indicative of a new freedom of expression that came out of the Internet," she says. "Being able to talk about your disease has a freeing-like affect on the victim both on the Net and in front of others."

Combine all of that with the sophisticated marketing of diseases — ribbons, awareness months, walks and colors — and the illness becomes a pop culture statement, says Hanley.

OWNING THE ILLNESS

People who broadcast their illnesses are not looking for pity and are not in denial about the seriousness of their disease, says breast oncologist Dr. Alejandra Perez, who sees patients wearing everything from sloganed T-shirts to pink wigs to no wig at all.

"For our patients it is very, very important to show the world that even though they have cancer, they are fighters," says Perez, co-director for the Memorial Regional Hospital Breast Cancer Center in

Hollywood, Fla. "They are not victims."

Her patient Suzie Silverman said that is the message she wants to convey when she wears her 'cancer sucks' tank top. She was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in 2006 that had spread to her liver and bones. She has weekly chemo treatments.

"You are giving affirmation to the fact that it does suck, and it's OK to suck but nonetheless you can look good and feel good," says Silverman, 38, mother of two. "It's my goal for people not to look at me and cry. Look at me and see that I am doing all the things you need to do to have a life."

FEELING GOOD CAN LOOK GOOD

"Medical fashion accessories" can actually look good, too.

Lorry Gregory wasn't too thrilled with the canes she found when a fall a decade ago triggered a case of arthritis. So the former tennis pro and part-time Naples, Fla., resident began making and selling her own canes.

"It picks their spirits up like it picked up mine," Gregory said, who is known as the Cane Lady. "Oh thank goodness, I don't have to use that ugly cane."

Gregory has bedecked canes with butterflies, cows, pigs, footballs and feathers. She has holiday-themed canes, such as red, white and blue with stars and flags for the Fourth of July and red, green and gold with Santa Claus figures for Christmas. She even has a cane with toy money and dice for Las Vegas. People can also order

custom canes, she says.

Stylish bracelets, necklaces and a watch from CreativeMedicalID.com changed Renee Rhoades attitude about having to wear a medical ID bracelet. She was worried about being branded as a sick person.

"I feel like a diva when I wear them," Rhoades said, who lives in Richmond and has diabetes. "I went from feeling self-conscious about being tagged with something for the rest of my life to 'So, what bracelet do I get to wear today?'"

There are dozens of fashionable medical ID bracelets including 14K gold-filled with sterling silver beads, braided leather with sterling silver clasps

and sterling silver watches with Bali beads. The actual Medical ID Tag is stainless steel and goes on the inside of the wrist. The tags can be engraved with any medical condition, whether it's diabetes or peanut allergy.

For children, the bracelets are a self-esteem booster, Denise Gaskill said, co-founder of Lauren's Hope, which sells fashionable medical ID bracelets.

"A lot of the other kids will say, 'what a pretty bracelet' instead of 'what's wrong with you?'" she says.

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

Some diseases, such as sexually transmitted ones, still remain deeply personal.

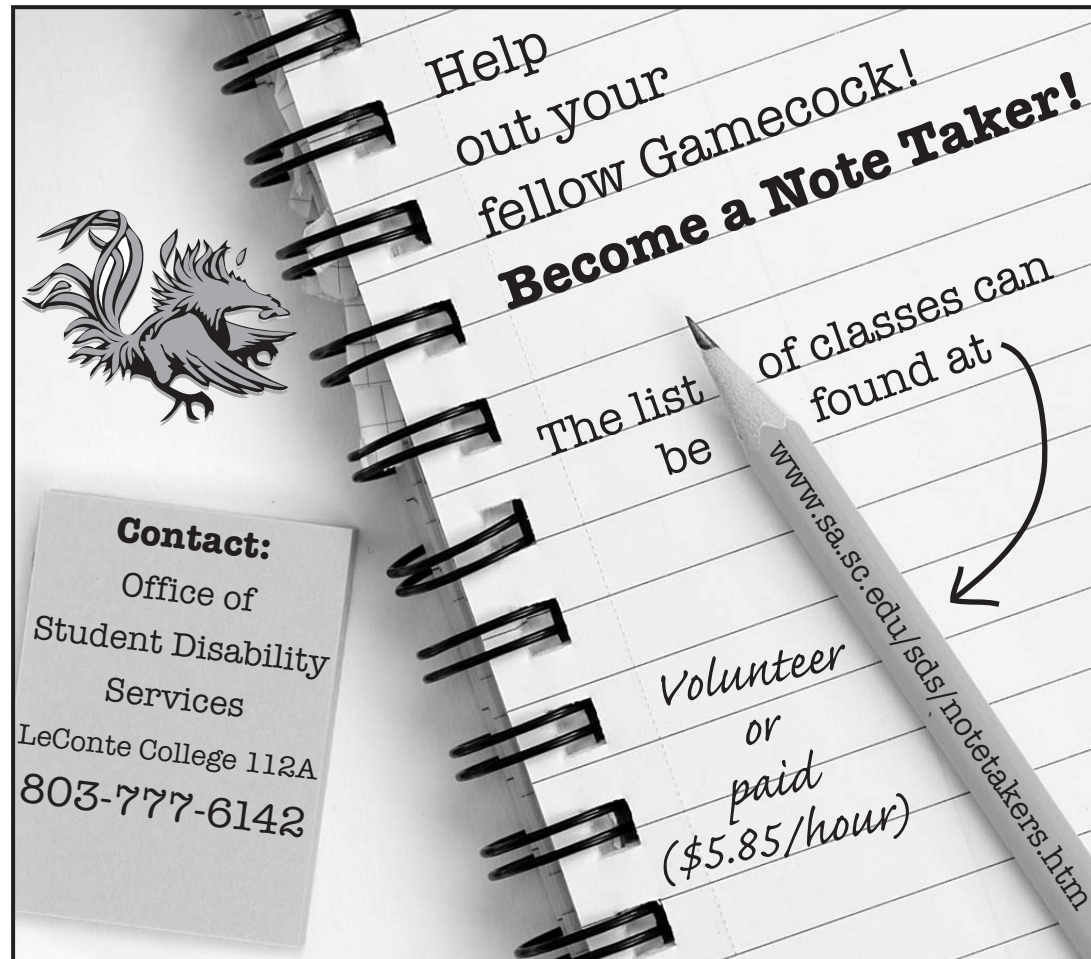
But a positive attitude, whether private or public, can go a long way in dealing with illness, Perez said.

That's what got Taylor Dettore, 17, through 18 months of chemo at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She did things like paint her head and draw a smile on her distended belly.

"I wanted to have fun with it, and I wanted to make other children laugh, and say that you can have a good time even if you are going through a bad one," she said.

Silverman said her cancer gear shows her resolve.

"I could crawl into my bed and put the covers over my head and die," she said. "Or I could live. I need to live."



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Thompson promises to rebuild military

Candidate plans to attempt to augment national security

Seanna Adcox
The Associated Press

AIKEN, S.C. —Republican presidential candidate Fred Thompson emphasized his plans for national security Monday as he continued campaigning in South Carolina, a state he has said is critical for his White House bid.

The former Tennessee senator and actor said the U.S. must rebuild its military. He will sit down with congressional leaders, but if that doesn't work Thompson said he'll simply go over their heads.

"We have to understand we are in a conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan that's part of a wider effort in a global war that's been declared on us by radical Islam," he told an overflowing crowd

of several hundred people gathered at an Aiken barbecue restaurant.

"The way you avoid a fight is prevail in those situations you find yourself in and be stronger than your adversary," he said. "We need to talk about the strong need for national security — talk about the mistakes we've made in the past — like in the 1990s when they took a little holiday from history and reduced our military by a third. Talk about the fact we're not going to do that again."

Later, Thompson walked along Main Street in Greenwood, greeting a crowd of about 50 people and taking pictures with many of them. At least one supporter was disappointed that Thompson didn't have a speaking event in the area.

"He's the only one out there without a negative, you hear things about the other guys. I wanted to hear him talk," said Wayne Bell, 62, of Greenwood.



Rainier Ehrhardt / The Associated Press

Republican presidential hopeful Fred Thompson greets supporters after a campaign stop at Papa Russ's BBQ Monday.

RATHER • Continued from 1

Rather said. "The war is there in most voters' minds -- pro or con I don't know."

Rather said he has visited many college campuses while following the campaign trail and found young people are engaged earlier in this campaign than they generally are.

"We'll see if that means people of college age actually go to the polls," Rather said.

He said in the 2004 presidential election a Democratic win was

predicted due to strong support from young people. They just didn't show up to the polls.

"When voting day comes, they just don't go out," he said.

Rather said the youth vote in Iowa could be a sign of a good turnout in the general election in November.

"Now in Iowa they got out -- big time," he said.

Rather said Obama seems to capture the minds of young Democratic voters but many young Republicans are still asking questions.

According to Rather, the 2008 election is a historic one. Not only are a woman and a black man prominent candidates, but this is the first election since 1928 neither party has a sitting or former president or vice president running for an open seat.

Rather's live broadcast will air on HDNet and is free and open to the public. For a reservation call 803-454-0936.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

ELECTION • Continued from 1

mind about whom to vote for. She described herself as a longtime Clinton supporter, but she was not happy about the comment about King.

"I'm still working on that one," she said. "I'm processing that one."

In South Carolina, Lonnie Randolph, president of the state chapter of the NAACP, said voters won't be swayed by "a sound bite taken out of context." Still, he said he wasn't surprised race had become an issue. "Remember this is America. Everything we do is about race," Randolph said.

Added Todd Shaw, an assistant professor of political science and African American studies at the University of South Carolina, "I don't think it's seismic, but I think it is having some impact."

Both sides are now trying — in public statements — to calm the furor before it gets out of control.

Clinton sent out a statement Monday night saying there had been "a lot of discussion and back and forth, much of which I know does not reflect what is in our hearts."

"I believe we must seek

common ground," she said, and she added that "when it comes to civil rights and our commitment to diversity, when it comes to our heroes — President John F. Kennedy and Dr. King — Senator Obama and I are on the same side."

Likewise, Obama, who had criticized her comment over the weekend, said Monday while campaigning in Nevada that it was time to stop "so much tit-for-tat, back-and-forth." He said he sometimes disagrees with Clinton but he added, "I think that Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton have historically and consistently been on the right side of civil rights issues. I think that they care about the African-American community and they care about all Americans and they want to see equal rights and equal justice in this country."

Clinton's husband, the former president, said last week that Obama was trying to sell a fairy tale, a comment that some in the Obama camp portrayed as having a racial tinge.

Bill Clinton has made the rounds of black radio, explaining his "fairy tale" reference to Obama — it was

about Obama's opposition to the Iraq war, not his candidacy, Clinton said. Mending fences, the former president planned to return to the Rev. Al Sharpton's radio show, and Sen. Clinton was to tape an hour long appearance with Tyra Banks, a former model who hosts a daytime talk show popular with black women.

Sharpton said, "The whole thing sneaked up on them and has now become a major issue."

Indeed, the situation is especially vexing for Bill Clinton — so popular among black voters he was once nicknamed the first black president. Many in politics believe Hillary Clinton's popularity among black voters is derived almost entirely from their favorable view of her husband.

"He's not on the ballot, and Hillary is very white," said David Bositis, a scholar at the Joint Center for Political Studies, a black think tank. "Anything that is there for her is a superficial transference, not a permanent transference."

Sen. Clinton herself has tried to turn the tables, suggesting Obama doesn't hold a candle to King in terms of activism and results.

"Dr. King didn't just give speeches," she said on NBC's Meet the Press — a slap at Obama's oratory, which the Clinton campaign contends is rarely backed up by results.

The new focus on race — and its impact on the electorate — will not be known until the South Carolina primary Jan. 26.

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Nation's first Indian-American governor takes office in Louisiana

New chief executive promises competent, corruption-free state

Melinda Deslatte
The Associated Press

Baton Rouge, La. Republican Bobby Jindal, the nation's first Indian-American governor, was sworn in Monday in Louisiana and moved quickly to make good on a campaign promise to clean up the corrupt image of this hurricane-battered state.

"We have the opportunity — born of tragedy, but embraced still the same — to make right decades of failure in government," Jindal said in his inaugural speech, referring to hurricanes Katrina and Rita of 2005.

Jindal, a former congressman, became Louisiana's first nonwhite governor since Reconstruction. He took the oath from the state Supreme Court's chief justice, Pascal Calogero. Jindal's wife Supriya held the Bible.

He said he will call a special legislative session Feb. 10 to address the state's image as a haven for cronyism and self-serving politicians. In his speech, he made numerous references to a "new Louisiana" and a "new beginning" for the state.

"We can build a Louisiana where our leaders and our people set the highest standards and hold every member of our government

accountable, a Louisiana where incompetence is not a synonym for government, a Louisiana where corruption does not hold us back," he said, without providing specifics.

Jindal, a 36-year-old conservative Republican, won more than 50 percent of the vote in October's primary election. He takes over from Democrat Kathleen Blanco, who had defeated him four years earlier. Blanco chose not to run after heavy criticism of her performance after Katrina.

While Jindal has focused on fixing the state's shady reputation and overhauling ethics laws, he inherits an array of problems that have dogged his predecessors. Louisiana is among the nation's most unhealthy and poorest states, its students still perform below average on national educational tests and its population is dwindling.

Worsening the state's long-term history of problems, back-to-back blows from hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated much of south Louisiana and left New Orleans struggling to recover. The pace of hurricane rebuilding has been sluggish, with thousands of homes left abandoned, thousands of residents displaced and basic government services destroyed.

The boyish-looking Jindal will be the youngest U.S. governor in office, but he's used to being among the youngest people in the room in his previous posts.

By the time he first ran



Bill Haber / The Associated Press

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal takes the oath from Louisiana Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Pascal Calogero, Jr.

for governor at age 32, Jindal had already served as Louisiana's health care secretary, president of one of its university systems and an assistant secretary in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President Bush. Republican former Gov. Mike Foster tapped Jindal to be the state's health secretary in 1996, when Jindal was only 24 years old.

Earlier Monday, newly elected legislators unanimously backed two of Jindal's choices for leadership posts. Republican state Rep. Jim Tucker was elected Speaker of the House, while Democratic state Sen. Joel Chaisson was elected president of the Senate. Both were elected without opposition.

On Sunday, Jindal attended a prayer service where churchmen from around the state read scripture and offered support.

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IN OUR OPINION

Costly security plan compromises privacy

Friday either marked another step in making our nation more secure or another step closer to Big Brother as Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff issued the final guidelines for implementing the controversial REAL ID.

REAL ID is a nationwide program for transforming state driver's licenses into electronically readable identification cards. While they must contain information like birth date, address, name and a photograph, Homeland Security can also mandate that they contain other information, like a fingerprint or Social Security number.

The REAL ID would be almost impossible to forge and would give law enforcement an advantage in catching criminals, terrorists or illegal immigrants with fake IDs.

But at what cost? REAL ID represents yet another government intrusion into our private lives.

In addition to being invasive, REAL ID is expensive — Citizens Against Government Waste puts the price tag at \$90 a person — and inconvenient. The added layers of security require additional forms of identification to get a REAL ID, potentially making trips to the DMV even more frustrating, if that's possible. Moreover, with merchants and government agencies scanning REAL IDs, will buying cigarettes become as big a hassle as boarding an airplane?

Six states, including South Carolina, have prohibited cooperation with REAL ID, and as we watch the private sphere shrink, that might be a good choice.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Voice your opinion on message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

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GONE GIGGIN'

Vote for candidates, not party pride

Some Americans refrain from voting because of equally bad prospects

There's a fine line between apathy and disgust. To me, it's not even that fine — the two are rarely confused, except by politicians and pundits. Declining voter turnout over the past decades has recently been under fire — even P. Diddy got into the act a few years ago, with his “Vote or Die!” campaign. While his choice of words has drawn some ridicule, the message isn't totally lost on even the daftest of us: if you want to have a say in the shaping of our country, get to the polls.

It seems that only people who don't care don't vote. While I concede that many such people probably do exist, this is a typical example of noticing a trend and then jumping to the nearest conclusion to explain it. It ignores the possibility that voters care very much about our country, but given the choices for president see no reason to vote.

Even Diddy's pseudo-conspiracy theorist friend Nas understands this. In an interview with AllHipHop.



JOSHUA RABON
Third-year finance student

com, he said “If you say ‘Vote or Die’ then you [Diddy] are saying it's all good that B u s c h s u p p o r t s ‘Vote of Die,’ a Republican b e e r association... Let's be real — vote or die, but let's vote for who?”

How arrogant do you have to be to assume that people aren't voting because they don't care? Could it possibly be they think the candidates are actually more alike than they are different — or to them, the candidates are more or less equally bad?

Let's say you walk into Five Points and a man, apparently on rough times, asks you for a sandwich. “Sure,” you say, “I'll buy you a cheeseburger, Philly cheesesteak or Reuben — what do you want?”

“I can't eat those.” What an ingrate, right? So you walk off. You didn't ask if he had any allergies.

Was he hungry? Check. Did he care about what he ate? Obviously. Does this

make him ungrateful or apathetic? Not necessarily.

We need a candidate with the foresight to think about all of his or her constituents, not just the ones that put them in office. I understand politicians aim to get re-elected and thus should pander to groups statistically inclined to vote, but fortunately the purpose of an elected official isn't to selectively represent.

It also doesn't help when Bush has repeatedly stated he doesn't worry about opinion polls and approval ratings. Hello? Did you get voted king for four years? If not, you should care about what people think.

Just dismissing such data, even on the basis of small sample size, is foolish at best. We need a politician who listens, who sees people aren't voting and asks “Why?”

Being the president doesn't mean just always doing what the majority wants, of course. That said, the most important issue for me in the upcoming election won't be Iraq, the economy or healthcare, but how effectively candidates are able to feel the pulse of the average American.

Facebook updates students on election

Web site application gives young users campaign news, encourages voting

The “Vote or Die!” campaign of the last presidential election failed to fire up most young voters, but four years after the fact, our demographic seems to have finally found its place in politics.

Direct attention from the candidates certainly helps this so-called “youthquake.” Obama, McCain and Clinton are just a few of the key candidates who remember the sizeable group of 18 to 29-year-old voters. Mike Huckabee has made every effort to impress college-age voters with his endorsements from Chuck Norris and numerous appearances on “The Colbert Report.”

The candidates use a variety of tactics to appeal to us, but ABC News has by far found the best way to show interest in college students across the country in an alliance with the ever-powerful Facebook.

ABC News and Facebook teamed up to create the “US Politics” application to keep as many Facebook users informed as possible. A team of young journalists



CAITLIN COSTELLO
First-year print journalism student

embedded in each campaign (one per candidate) each use Facebook to keep users updated on the activities of the campaigns while also filming and creating pieces for ABC News.

Unlike many applications of the “new” Facebook, “US Politics” is actually useful and worth adding. There is a mini-feed from each of the young journalists, debate groups and links to campaign-related stories. It even offers a poll that compares who Facebook users support versus the general ABC News polls. The foreseeable skew is apparent — Ron Paul is the Republican front-runner by far among Facebook users, but falls miserably short in the minds of the American public.

This simple Facebook application puts the extravagant, pointless use of technology by other news organizations to shame. A “magic pie chart” cannot compare with

technology that people can actually use, and many statistics prove that Facebook is most certainly used.

ABC News deserves to be commended on its decision to use young reporters in conjunction with this Facebook application. These journalists put a youthful, fresh face on politics that meshes wonderfully with what many Facebook users want and need to see on an institution that usually does not cater to them.

It is also a great opportunity for these reporters as they start their careers. This is exactly what up-and-coming reporters need after college to get them started — they were even featured on “World News Tonight” recently in a group interview with Charles Gibson.

For providing the journalists with such a unique experience at their age and young voters with a source for political news that is designed to meet their preferences, ABC News deserves recognition. In the months leading up to November, we will see if an alliance brings out more political fervor in young voters than the failed “Vote or Die!” slogan.

Road rules, basic safety disregarded by Chinese

Operating motor vehicles in China not considered important responsibility

Drew Dimmery will be writing a series of columns on his impressions of a recent excursion through China.

The Chinese don't care very much for the rules of the road. That became abundantly clear mere hours after arriving. Traffic lights are taken as suggestions only, unless there happened to be a guard at the intersection.

At a single intersection later in my trip, there were three guards policing the traffic, one of whom carried an automatic rifle.

Another characteristic attribute was a liberal use of the horn. In North Carolina, Driver's Education teaches to toot one's horn when overtaking another vehicle. In China, they need no such formal direction on the matter. They would beep when passing to warn bikes/mopeds/pedestrians of their intent to remain at a constant velocity (even if that happens to be a collision course), or even to announce their presence when making a sharp turn around twisty mountain roads. A car horn serves the same purpose as a bell on a bike to the Chinese, it seems — horns could be utilized for no discernible practical reason at all.

When my sister and I hired a minivan to take us back to the bus stop after a grueling two-day hike, we learned of the true nature of the indomitable Chinese driving spirit. First, I think I need to explain the broad definition of “road” necessary to understand the driving surface between our location and the bus stop. It was about a lane and a half wide, and sometimes paved; when a vehicle approached from the opposite direction, it was necessary to pull off the road as far as possible and let them go around before continuing down the mountain. This was difficult, however, since one side of the road was a steep cliff up the side of the mountain. For instance, in one part of the road, a waterfall gushed directly onto the right side of the road. Immediately off the other side of the road was a drop to the bottom of the gorge. Luckily, there weren't many other cars coming.

A more careful man might decide to navigate this sort of trail slowly with care. Our driver, though, was no such wussy. He barreled down this hill as inexorably as Jill followed after Jack. On at least one occasion, the left tires of our rolling deathtrap passed mere inches from the precipice. I can't be more specific because after that first brush with death, I decided not to be so observant. After a long 40 minutes, we shakily stumbled out of the vehicle. My sister thanked our driver and told him admiringly that he drove like a real badass. He said something about having to go fast or else the rocks would catch us from behind. He also made a gesture with his hands, miming our minivan getting hit by rocks and falling to our doom. He chortled as we left.

“Come, my friends, / ‘Tis not too late to seek
a newer world.”
- Alfred Tennyson

NINE-MONTH JOURNEY

With quirky dialogue, references, coupled with strong performances, ‘Juno’ brings unique perspective of teen pregnancy to life on screen, carries comedy to term

Almar Flotildes
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

“Juno”
★★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

There is a lot to love about “Juno.” It’s funny, touching and possesses a true indie rock ‘n’ roll spirit.

Ellen Page, 20, nominated and already winner of several best leading actress awards for this role, perfectly channels a quirky and outspoken punk rock suburban 16-year-old who finds herself, as her character Juno MacGuff describes, “dealing with stuff way beyond [her] maturity level.”

At the start of the movie, we watch Juno guzzle down her weight in Sunny D as she walks to a convenience store to buy another home pregnancy test. After a third and hopeful try, there is no doubt that the distinct “unholy” pink plus mark means that she is positively pregnant.

Despite how immature and childish she may seem, Juno acts independently for most of the movie. And to cope with her problems, Juno employs a lot of sarcasm. With her kind of personality and situation, a sharp cynicism is almost

demanding.

Juno’s instinct to deal with her pregnancy is to go with the “alternative solution.” She confides with her best friend, also her baby’s daddy, Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera), “I might nip it in the bud before it gets worse. Because I heard in health class that pregnancy often results in an infant.”

“Yeah, typically that’s what happens when our moms and teachers get pregnant,” Bleeker replies, and the two decide that the abortion is for the best.

After a few seconds of waiting in the abortion clinic’s lobby with nail-biting anxiousness, Juno decides that she can’t go through with the procedure. Juno reasons that, allegedly, it already has fingernails.

Juno settles to have the baby but wants to give it away for adoption. Juno’s friend, Leah (Olivia Thirlby), suggests looking in the Penny Saver for adoption ads, the ones “right by the ads for iguanas and terriers and used fitness equipment.”

This is how Juno comes to meet a seemingly perfect couple — Vanessa and Mark Loring (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman), educated, successful and “beautiful even in black and white.” Juno commits to deliver the



Special to The Daily Gamecock

Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) discusses her pregnancy over burgers and fries with close friend Leah (Olivia Thirlby).

baby for them to adopt.

This script is actually the first baby for writer Diablo Cody, who’s also been nominated for a bevy of best original screenplay awards. Along with director Jason Reitman (“Thank You for Smoking”), the duo collaborated to make a quality film, unique to the very end.

You’ll find a lot of quirky dialogue, slang and abbreviated lingo that

complements Cody’s well-crafted story. There are references to classic horror movies and indie rock bands. There is even a cameo from Rainn Wilson. But the most impressive part of the movie is the performances.

J.K. Simmons, as Mac MacGuff, plays a lovable father who we can see supports his daughter and accepts the fact that she is pregnant. He acknowledges Juno by calling her, “big

puffy version of Junebug.” But we also understand how deeply disappointed he is with her when Juno reveals that she is pregnant — a heart-tugging scene where Mac tells Juno, “I thought you were the kind of girl who knew when to say when.” Juno replies, “I have no idea what kind of girl I am.”

And that is really what the whole movie is about — Juno’s journey to find out

what kind of person she is or wants to be. Not to divulge too much about the ending, but the movie is all about Juno maturing in her own sense as much as her baby. In the end, Juno can make for herself what she truly feels are the right decisions, which only her nine-month journey could teach her.

Comments on this story? E-mail
sagcketc@mailbox.sc.edu

Analysts predict ‘Macworld’ unveilings

With technology expo near, experts wonder if Apple can keep up

Rex Crum
MCT Campus

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple Inc., known for unleashing some bombshells at the annual Macworld Expo, has left some observers wondering whether the company has already emptied its cannons leading into this year’s event.

Macworld will kick off Monday in San Francisco. Chief Executive Steve Jobs will take the stage the following day to deliver one of his typical state-of-the-company addresses and show off what he believes will be the next big thing for the company that has quickly become a consumer electronics powerhouse with its Mac computers, the iconic iPhone and the massively popular iPod digital music players.

The question is: What will Apple have left to announce only months after over-hauling the iPod line, updating its Mac products and launching the latest version of its operating system?

In fact, the company made its latest product announcement less than a week ago. On Jan. 8, Apple debuted a new line of Mac Pro desktops that sports eight processor cores and will sell for prices starting at \$2,799.

Comparisons will be even more difficult when considering last year’s event, when Jobs unveiled the iPhone to nearly unanimous raves. The debut of that device helped spark a frenzy on Apple’s shares that sent

the stock up more than 130 percent last year.

Those gains have made some Wall Street analysts woozy. Since peaking at an all-time high above the \$200 mark over Christmas, Apple’s shares have sold off more than 10 percent.

“Given continued lofty expectations for Apple, even after last week’s tech sell-off, we believe that Apple will be range-bound with downside risk near-term,” Keith Bachman of BMO Capital Markets wrote in a Jan. 8 note to clients.

Since Apple finished the annual refurbishing of its product lines in September, speculation has grown regarding what the company could unveil to awe the show’s assembled throngs of Apple devotees.

At this year’s show, the guesses seem focused on two things. The more likely possibility is a small, ultra-portable version of the MacBook laptop computer. Another popular rumor surrounds a version of the iPhone that would run on so-called 3G networks, allowing for a faster data transfer rate for the device’s Internet applications.

The CEO of AT&T, which is Apple’s partner in

marketing the iPhone in the U.S., said in late November that Apple planned to launch a 3G version of the iPhone sometime this year.

Gene Munster of Piper Jaffray said he believes Apple will put on a Mac-focused event, saying that “the timing is right for Apple to update most, if not all of its Macs” at the Macworld show, Munster said he expects Apple to unveil its smallest and thinnest MacBook, with a screen that measures between 11 and 13 inches, and a price tag somewhere between the current \$1,099 consumer version of the MacBook and the MacBook Pro’s cost of \$1,999.

Munster and other analysts speculate that the new MacBook could be the first Mac to use flash memory, citing Samsung’s introduction of a 64-gigabyte flash drive, which Apple might consider large enough to use in a new laptop.

Munster holds a buy rating and a \$250 price target on Apple’s stock.

Bachman of BMO Capital said that, even with a revamped notebook line, “we don’t think MacWorld will have the same ‘wow’ factor as recent years.”



iTunes Top 10 albums

1. “Juno (Music from the Motion Picture)”
– Various Artists
2. “In Rainbows” – Radiohead
3. “Made of Bricks (Bonus Track Version)”
– Kate Nash
4. “Little Voice” – Sarah Bareilles
5. “The Leak – EP” – Lil Wayne
6. “Good Morning Revival,” Good
Charlotte
7. “Once (Music from the Motion Picture)”
– Various Artists
8. “Alvin and the Chipmunks (Original
Motion Picture Soundtrack)” – Alvin and
the Chipmunks
9. “Some People Have Real Problems” – Sia
10. “P.S. I Love You (Music from the
Motion Picture)” – Various Artists

Golden Globes finish off wild week with tedium

Writers' strike causes stars to not show, ends in brief ceremony

Rick Kushman
MCT Campus

Well, that was special. Nothing makes for rip-roaring Sunday-night of television like a press conference, headlined by a pack of D- and E-list "stars" from TV entertainment magazines.

"The 65th Annual Golden Globe Awards Announcement," as it was being called, finished off a wild week in Hollywood with tedium — a jury-rigged, uninterrupted 30 minutes of people reading lists.

On the plus side, it was over by 9:30 p.m. EST so viewers could get on with their evening.

It's hard to think there was a huge audience, since what are award shows without the clothes and the weeping, stuttering, or, hopefully, slightly looped stars?

Instead, on Sunday night, viewers got the likes of Brooke Anderson from "Showbiz Tonight," Giuliana Rancic of "E! News Daily" and Lara Spencer of "The Insider." They stood on a stage at the Beverly Hilton

Hotel and read the nominees, announced the winners, then got a smattering of applause from reporters and publicists in the ballroom.

Each announcer plowed through a handful of categories — no acceptances, no pauses — just lists, interrupted now and then by a clip. It had the pizzazz of watching a retirement dinner.

That had to be a particular letdown for fans of the Golden Globes, which had grown into a popular show because it's the only award fest that 1) mixes film and TV stars, and 2) serves alcohol. That combo made for some wild viewing, though, in truth, stars have been more careful in recent years and the show has been domesticated a touch.

The awards themselves, particularly in Hollywood, are taken only semi-seriously. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association is a barely reputable group of fewer than 100 people who have a rep for happily accepting swag, possibly in return for award consideration, and the creative community understands that a Globes win is as much a random event as a real acknowledgment of excellence.

As a publicity vehicle, however, the Globes may be second only to the Academy Awards, because the studios and networks make a huge deal about the nominees, the winners and, in most years, the show.

But not this year, and the back story on that is more entertaining than a lot of film plots.

It starts, of course, with the 10-week old writers' strike. TV and film writers are fighting with the studio/network alliance over future pay from the world of new media, and things have gotten more bitter by the day.

The writers said they had no beef with the Globes party or the foreign press, but they announced they'd picket the Globes if there was a big show, because they wanted to kill the ratings payday for NBC, which held broadcast rights. Almost all the major nominees said they wouldn't cross the picket line — and they were backed by the actors guild, which has its own contract talks coming soon.

The foreign press association asked NBC to give up the show so they could still have the party, but NBC, instead, decided it would stage what it called a one-hour

"press conference," to be covered live only by NBC News.

With that, writers promised pickets, stars said they wouldn't show, and the foreign press gang got ticked at NBC.

Next, NBC's own news division got ticked, too, saying it didn't want to be part of an entertainment show pretending to be news. So NBC took the lightweight option and named Nancy O'Dell and Billy Bush as hosts. They're from "Access Hollywood," which is owned by NBC Universal.

At that point, in the middle of last week, with the writers still planning to picket and stars saying they were staying away, the after parties all got canceled by the studios and advertisers, since, what would be the point?

What came next didn't have much to do with the strike. Instead, it was a fight like most fights in Hollywood. It was about money and control.

On Friday, after haggling with NBC about a fee for exclusive rights to the Globes show/press conference, the foreign press association and Dick Clark Productions, which was producing the event, decided NBC was stiffing them both. So, they trimmed the thing to 30 minutes, and threw

open the Globes — such as they were — to any network that wanted to cover it live.

Both the press association and DCP issued bitter statements. "NBC wanted to have an exclusive broadcast special disguised as a news conference," the Dick Clark press release said. NBC talked about future court action.

And under the theory that any enemy of my enemy is my friend, the writers guild said it would not picket the non-exclusive event, and take that, NBC.

So, infotainment cable nets like E! Entertainment, the TV Guide Channel and CNN, leaped to accept. O'Dell and Bush got dumped for that lineup of heavyweights from "Extra," "Entertainment Tonight" and, heaven help us, "The Insider." The Golden Globes, already borderline, officially became schlock.

For what it's worth, the Globes probably set a record for award-show brevity, which has to be worth something. And, in the end, what we got was an interesting, if overblown, build-up, then a whimper of a finale. Like so many other Hollywood plots.

Golden Globe winners

In major categories:

Drama

Best movie

"Atonement"

Best actress

Julie Christie
"Away From Her"

Best actor

Daniel Day-Lewis
"There Will Be Blood"

Best director

Julian Schnabel
"The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"

Best television series

"Mad Men"

Musical or comedy

Best movie

"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

Best actress

Marion Cotillard
"La Vie En Rose"

Best actor

Johnny Depp
"Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street"

Best television series

"Xtras"

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the scene at USC



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CONSTANCE GEE FACULTY VIOLA RECITAL
7:30 p.m., Free
USC School of Music Recital Hall

VERSEWORKS OPEN MIC POETRY SHOW
8:30 p.m., Free
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

THE LADYKILLERS, COURIER
9:00 p.m., \$5
Headliners, 700 Gervais St.

LAKE OF FIRE
6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., \$5.50
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

Tomorrow:

CAROLINA PRODUCTIONS GENERAL MEETING
6:00 p.m.
Russell House Theater

THE SWELLERS, FIREWORKS, SYDNEY, THE DECADE
6:00 p.m., \$8
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

CREOLE JAZZ SERENADERS WITH DAN VAPPLE
8:00 p.m., \$30
Newberry Opera House

Inside the Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette/ The Daily Gamecock



Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



Welcome to Falling Rock National Park ♦ By Kid Shay



HOROSCOPES

Aries — Be polite to a stern taskmaster. This is the person who is teaching you to be a hero, an expert, a perfectionist or all three. Learn the rules and follow them. You're on a winning streak. **Taurus** — Tempers are short, especially on the road and in unfamiliar situations. Take care and don't bite anybody's head off. You know how you can get. Stay cool. **Gemini** — One of your buddies accomplishes something you've been trying to do. Don't feel the least bit jealous. This is also a win for you. After all, remember, you're on the same team. **Cancer** — Controversy arises. Do you need to get involved? Not necessarily. Let somebody else

fight this battle for you. Watch from a safe place. **Leo** — You're not in the mood to do your regular chores. Don't quit your job, but do take a leisurely lunch with a person you find fascinating. Maybe that will help you relax. **Virgo** — Not a good time to gamble. It is a good time to shop for bargains for your home, real estate included. Check to make sure it's a solid deal, however. All is not as it seems to be. **Libra** — Somebody else is the one who comes up with the winning answer this time. It's okay, since this person has your own best interests at heart. It's grounds for a celebration. **Scorpio** — Is it really worth the effort? Don't start worrying about that. Difficulties are

always about what you make of them. Give them respect, but not fear. **Sagittarius** — It's a good time to fall in love. If you already have, you may be surprised to find you can do it all over again, with the same person. It mellows with age. **Capricorn** — Don't hurry, take your time and use your imagination. With a few carefully chosen items, you can create a masterpiece. **Aquarius** — Provide encouragement to help one of your friends drop a bad habit. He or she may not think it's possible, but you know it is. It's okay to be tough. **Pisces** — You've made a good impression on an authority figure. He or she admires you for sticking to your guns. You're advancing.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1/15/08

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Come and see

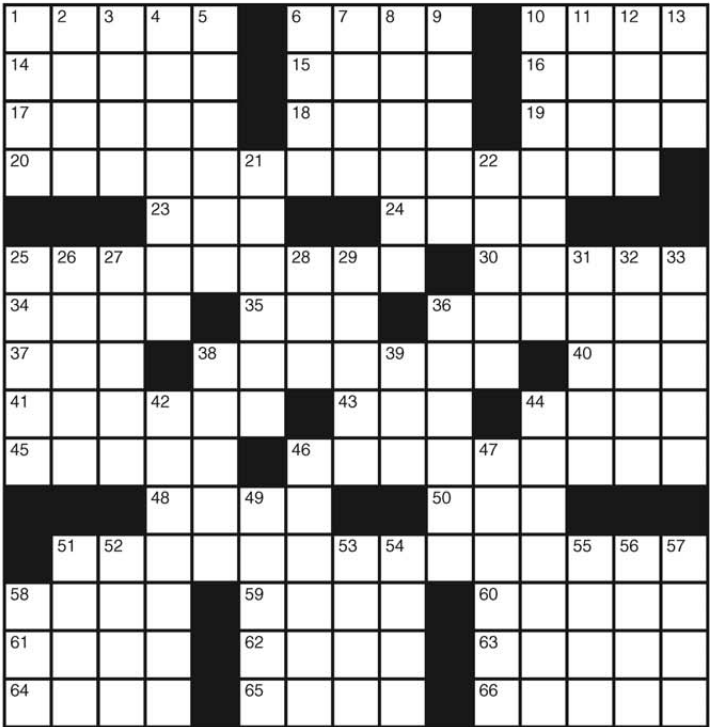
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ACROSS

- 1 Split second
- 6 High crags
- 10 Tramp
- 14 Liquid measure
- 15 Aid in a felony
- 16 Building branches
- 17 Close, in poetry
- 18 Crazy
- 19 Dregs
- 20 Financial TV personage
- 23 O.J.'s judge
- 24 Auricular
- 25 Financial TV personage
- 30 Prefix for a hydrate?
- 34 Declare
- 35 Dad's love
- 36 Direct sales
- 37 Bird's beak
- 38 Boat basins
- 40 Rumsfeld's old org.
- 41 Of the ankle
- 43 LIRR destination
- 44 Weighty book
- 45 Texas shrine
- 46 Financial TV personage
- 48 Chef Rombauer
- 50 Inventor Whitney
- 51 Financial TV personage
- 58 Hoodwink
- 59 Where puts and calls trade in IL
- 60 Exclude
- 61 Encourage
- 62 Split apart
- 63 Writer Zola
- 64 Highway
- 65 Keats output
- 66 Heated argument



Solutions from 1/14/08

P	O	T	T	E	D	S	T	O	P	C	O	C	K
E	N	R	I	C	O	C	I	M	A	R	R	O	N
T	E	U	T	O	N	H	E	A	T	A	B	L	E
A	L	A	I	N	D	E	L	O	N	G	I	L	A
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S	U	N	S	H	A	D	E	T	R	I	S	T	E
E	P	I	T	O	M	E	S	E	A	S	I	E	R
S	T	E	E	P	E	S	T	E	M	E	N	D	S

- Polynesian
- 39 "Bill __, the Science Guy"
- 42 Smiled smugly
- 44 Roman galley
- 46 Poked
- 47 Slurs over
- 49 Large: pref.
- 51 Spanish painter
- Joan
- 52 Pond scum
- 53 Top-drawer
- 54 Cerise and crimson
- 55 Death notice, briefly
- 56 Brewer's grain
- 57 Popular cookie
- 58 Prickly husk



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Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

1/15/08

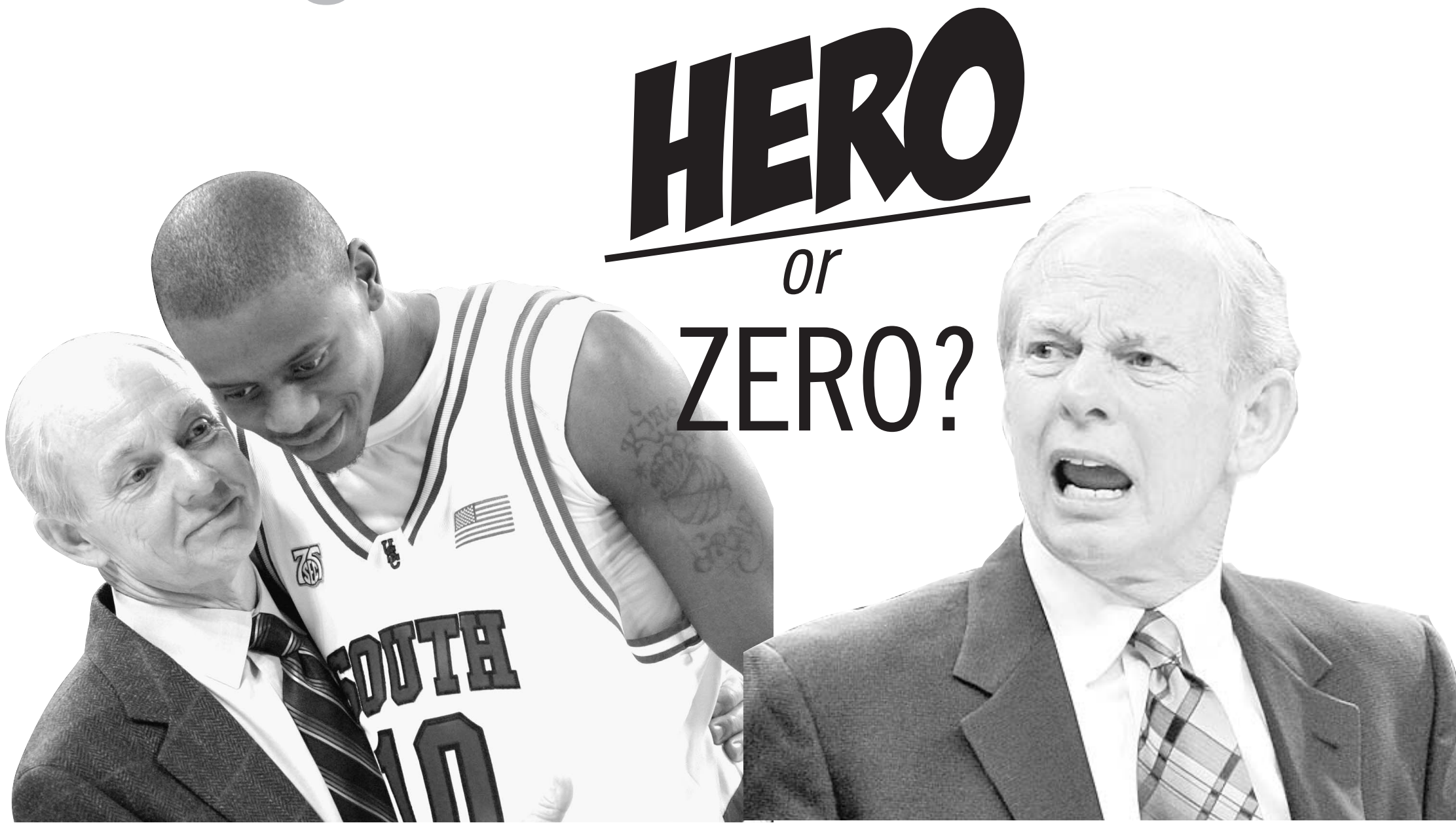
	9	3			2	1	6	
				6	8			
	7				9		2	
		4					1	
		5				9		
	8					3		
	3		1				4	
			4	7				
	6	1	9			2	3	

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 1/14/08

1	7	4	8	6	2	5	9	3
2	5	8	9	3	7	1	4	6
3	9	6	4	1	5	8	7	2
8	2	3	7	5	9	4	6	1
7	6	1	3	2	4	9	8	5
9	4	5	6	8	1	3	2	7
5	1	7	2	9	8	6	3	4
4	3	9	5	7	6	2	1	8
6	8	2	1	4	3	7	5	9



Now in his seventh year as the head coach of the USC men's basketball team, Dave Odom has taken the Gamecocks to unprecedented heights and unforeseen lows during his tenure in Columbia, but with an 8-8 start to the season has many fans growing restless. Here's a look and a grading scale on the best and worst of what the Odom Era has entailed.

THE PLAYERS' CLUB

REGULAR SEASON STUNNERS

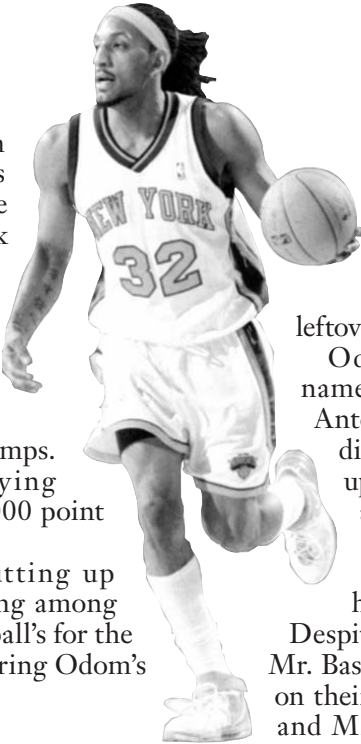
DANCING?

PROS

Talent has never been an issue for South Carolina. In six completed seasons, Odom has sent two players to significant playing time in the NBA in New York Knick first-round draft pick Renaldo Balkman and late season Rookie of the Month for the Memphis Grizzlies Tarence Kinsey.

Forward Brandon Wallace signed as a free agent with the Boston Celtics while the No. 6 scorer all-time at USC, Carlos Powell, has landed two different invites to NBA training camps. All-SEC guard Tre Kelley is currently playing overseas. In total, six players have joined the 1,000 point club at Carolina during Odom's tenure.

Current Gamecock Devan Downey is putting up impressive numbers, including a top five ranking among scorers in the SEC. All six of the last Mr. Basketball's for the state of South Carolina have enrolled at USC during Odom's tenure.



CONS

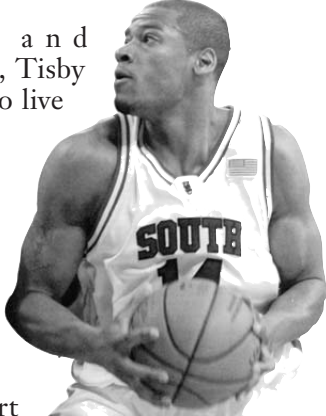
While he's landed some high quality players, Odom seems to be continually searching for his "project player" much like Tim Duncan from Wake Forest. He has yet to recruit and use a true center during his time at Carolina. The closest players to the position were Tony Kitchens and Maurice Petravicius, but both were leftovers from the Eddie Fogler era.

Odom's list of washout big men include names like Ousmane Konate, Keving Palacios and Antoine Tisby. A former junior college standout, Tisby did have some solid games for USC but failed to live up to his potential during the 2004-05 season and transferred. Former McDonald's All-American Rolando Howell never seemed to blossom under Odom and eventually ended his career on the bench with a broken hand.

Despite the fact all six of the last South Carolina Mr. Basketballs have come to USC, only three came on their own the first time. Downey, Zam Fredrick and Mike Jones each went to other schools before transferring home, with Jones never seeing the court following his removal from school due to academics.

GRADE

B-



The Gamecocks have pulled off some shockers under Odom's guidance that have caught the attention of the college basketball world. In 2005-06, USC swept the regular season series with the Florida Gators and finished two points shy of tying the Gators in the SEC Tournament Championship Game. Florida would go on to finish the season as the national champions, their first of a back-to-back set.

In 2004-05, Carolina's upset bid came as the entire world was watching on ESPN. USC squared off with a top five Kentucky team looking to stay on their hot streak as the postseason approached. Instead, the Gamecocks scored a 73-61 upset win highlighted by a \$5,000 fine as fans rushed the court in celebration.

USC also pulled off a stunner despite last seasons struggles as the Gamecocks spoiled Southern California's first game in their new arena with an 80-74 OT win. The Trojans would go on to make the Sweet 16 in the NCAA Tournament.

The biggest skid mark came this season as USC tried to close out the non-conference season strong but found itself on the losing end of a game with UNC Asheville. 7-foot-7 center Kenny George scored a double-double as the Gamecocks failed to respond to his size. UNC Asheville scored the game's last 10 points including George's dunk for the lead with under 30 seconds left. Many consider the loss the final nail in the Dave Odom coffin.

While the win over Southern Cal last season was historic, the trip west was a 50/50 split. Two days prior to their overtime upset of the Trojans, the Gamecocks were the team being upset as UC Irvine scored a 67-52 win that put Carolina at 1-1 on the season.

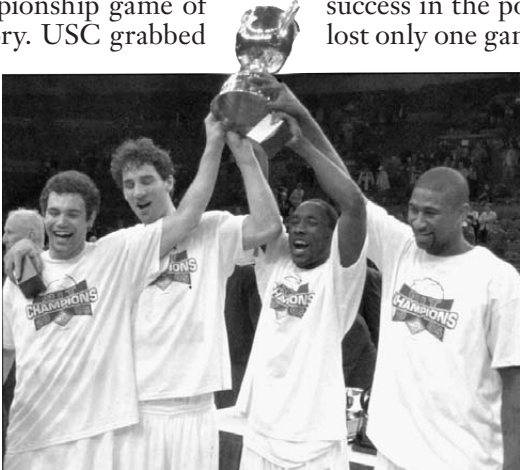
In the rivalry series, Odom started off an impressive 3-0 against Clemson. Since then Odom is 0-4 with the last three losses coming by 10 points or more.



C+

Aside from legendary coach Frank McGuire, USC basketball has never had the amount of postseason success it has had under Odom. In six seasons, Odom has taken the Gamecocks to their only three appearances in the championship game of a non-conference tournament in school history. USC grabbed back-to-back NIT titles in 2005 and 2006, becoming the first school to do that since St. Joseph's in the 1940s.

USC has won at least one game in the SEC Tournament in three of Odom's six seasons including runs to the semifinals and championship game. His four 20-plus win seasons are bested only by McGuire's six in Gamecock history. In 2003, Odom got USC to the NCAA Tournament and back into the top 25 for the first time since



In his lone NCAA tournament appearance, Odom and the Gamecocks were quickly eliminated by Memphis for another one-and-done showing in the tournament. Odom's only success in the postseason has come in the NIT where he has lost only one game, but the fans are quick to remind everyone that his wins have come in the second-tier tournament.

Odom has yet to guide the Gamecocks to the top 15, with the team's highest ranking coming in 2003 at No. 17. While he does have four 20-plus win seasons, only one of those seasons has come during the regular season. Odom's team went 21-9 in the 2003 regular season but his other 20-plus winning stints all came in the SEC or NIT tournaments.

C-

Favre, Brady matchup one for ages

The Patriots may have the red, white, blue color scheme, but for most of America its all about the Packers now

I've become a Packers fan. It's not just because of the great story of the ageless Brett Favre having a career season despite critics calling for his retirement or because the NFC has proved itself desperately inept for the last couple Super Bowls. It's because I hate the Patriots.

I have hated the Patriots for quite some time and I've never been afraid to admit it. This season, however, my hatred has reached a new level. That's because of the frustration that I have had to face every Sunday as the Pats continue to not just win, but dominate.

Admittedly they began to slide as the season ended but at the beginning of the season the boys from Boston were ripping the rest of the league apart. They could score almost at will and have put on what is arguably the best offensive show in the history of the NFL.

The problem is, its getting harder and harder to find flaws and decry the actual worth of the Patriots. Prior to this season there were still arguments as to whether or not Tom Brady was an overrated quarterback. There were still questions about the running game and the receivers were never anything to write home about.

All of that turned around this season. The Patriots are probably the best team of my lifetime and certainly the best overall team in the league this season. I'll even admit that at this point they can make the argument that they are the best team in the history of all football.

It is for all of these reasons that I have become a Packers fan. I have more or

less resigned myself to the idea that the Chargers are not going to beat the Patriots. The Bolts were two dropped passes that turned into interceptions and a fumble away from getting blown out in Indianapolis.

Now with the chance that Phillip Rivers, LaDainian Tomlinson and Antonio Gates are not going to be healthy, things look pretty grim for San Diego.

The Packers are most likely the second-best team in the league and if the ball bounces their way a couple times they could possibly steal one from the Patriots. If the Packers can make it past Eli Manning and the Giants they just might have a chance.

So I root for the Packers on the merit that they probably have the best chance against the Patriots and on the merit that if it comes down to Pack and Pats I won't be alone.

Just envision the matchup: The team from middle of nowhere Wisconsin against the big bad boys from Boston. The receiving corps featuring a guy named Donald versus

Randy Moss. Mike McCarthy, formerly a tight end for Baker University (I'm sorry... where?) against Bill Belichick, better known for selling his soul to the Devil for superhuman coaching abilities.

Finally:Favre versus Brady.

The all-American boy from Mississippi, the guy whose last name isn't spelled right, the guy whose facial hair is perpetually in the perfectly scruffy phase, who married his high school sweetheart, who high fives referees after he throws touchdowns, who got to where he is by flying by the seat of his pants and, most importantly, wears Wrangler jeans.



Winslow Townson / The Associated Press

Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are one game away from another Super Bowl appearance. But the Pats could face a mighty task if Bret Favre and the Pack win too.

It's that guy against the quarterback who symbolizes the downfall of the American man. Tom Brady, the guy from California who gels his hair before and after games, who poses for cologne ads and questionable magazine covers, who dates foreign supermodels, who hasn't been seen smiling (unless you count evil smirks) in years, who is calculating, ruthless, plotting and, most importantly, wears berets and scarves in

post-game press conferences.

If the Packers make it to the Super Bowl they won't just be playing for themselves. They will be playing for me and 99 percent of the rest of America. The Patriot fans will be few and far between and maybe, just maybe, that will be enough to bring down this nefarious empire.

Probably not, but it sure is nice to dream.

Olympic dreams cut short by track federation’s decision against disabled runner

Amputee sprinter ruled ineligible for Olympics because of racing blades

Raf Casert
AP Sports Writer

All his life, Oscar Pistorius has confronted obstacles. The double-amputee sprinter from South Africa now faces another one: a decision barring him from the Olympics.

Track and field's governing body ruled Monday he is ineligible to compete this summer in Beijing or any other sanctioned able-bodied competitions because his "Cheetah" racing blades are "technical aids" that give him a clear advantage.

"An athlete using this prosthetic blade has a demonstrable mechanical advantage (more than 30 percent) when compared to someone not using the blade," the International Association of Athletics Federations said.

Pistorius had long learned not to consider his artificial legs a hindrance, even refusing to park his car in a spot for the disabled.

His manager, Peet Van Zyl, called the IAAF ruling a "huge blow." Van Zyl spoke briefly with Pistorius, saying he "could hear from his voice that he is disappointed."

"He has been competing in South African able-bodied competition for the past three years," Van Zyl said. "At this stage it looks like he is out of any able-bodied event."

The 21-year-old runner said last week he would appeal "to the highest levels" if the ruling went against him. He could take his case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland. The International Olympic Committee said it "respects" the IAAF decision.

"This decision has nothing to do with Oscar Pistorius' athletic merits. What is important is to ensure fair competition," the IOC said in a statement.

South Africa's national track and field federation

says it is bound by IAAF rules and must keep Pistorius from some national races he has entered for several years.

"If we had our rules and our own competition it would be easier," South Africa federation president Leonard Chuene said. "It is a huge problem."

Pistorius finished second in the 400 meters at the South African national championships last year against able-bodied runners.

The IAAF based its decision on a study in Germany by professor Gert-Peter Brueggemann. He found several indicators the Cheetah blades provided an unfair edge.

The federation said Pistorius had been allowed to compete in some able-bodied events until now because his case was unique and such artificial protheses had not been properly studied.

No one directly questioned the findings of Brueggemann. The producer of Pistorius' Cheetahs and the International Paralympic Committee said more tests should be undertaken.

The ruling does not affect his eligibility for Paralympic events, in which he was a gold medalist in Athens in 2004. Pistorius has set world records in the 100, 200 and 400 in Paralympic events.

The runner worked with Brueggemann in Cologne for two days of testing in November. The goal was to learn how the j-shaped carbon-fiber extensions to his amputated legs differed from the legs of fully abled runners.

Brueggemann found that Pistorius was able to run at the same speed as able-bodied runners on about a quarter less energy. The professor said that once the runners hit a certain stride, athletes with artificial limbs needed less additional energy than other athletes.

The professor determined that the returned energy from the prosthetic blade is "close to three times higher than with the human ankle joint in maximum sprinting." The IAAF adopted a rule last summer prohibiting "technical aids" deemed to give an athlete an advantage.

Pistorius was born without fibulas, the long,

thin outer bone between the knee and ankle, and was 11 months old when his legs were amputated below the knee. He began running competitively four years ago to treat a rugby injury,

and nine months later won the 200 meters at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens.

Pistorius competed in the 400 at two international-level able-bodied meets in

2007. He finished second in a B race at a Golden League meet in Rome on July 13 and two days later was disqualified for running out of his lane in Sheffield, England.

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syounstedt@sc.edu
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zielinsk@mailbox.sc.edu 777-9929 or 777-7296

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